真空融接

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Alexi receiver

Son of Floran. Due to his sensitivity, he dislikes exchanging power with any other people

Rael supplier

Alexi's partner. A year younger than Alexi but always reliable

Floran supplier

Had Alexi at eighteen when studying abroad at the neighboring country with. Gil. Works as a chef.

Gil receiver

Floran's partner. Raised Alexi together with Floran

Keel supplier

Elias's partner. Five years older than Elias and studies botany

Elias receiver

Lost his partner to an accident at twelve but pulled through after he met Keel

Character Introductions

The people of this country are divided into "supplyers" and "receivers." Receivers cannot live without taking in the power made within the supplyers' bodies, while supplyers cannot live without releasing power into receivers. Power can only be exchanged through meeting lips

Apache Yuscue

第8章
過ぎた季節の物語

Back then I was always waiting for good news about my son.
I'M HOME, GIL!
WELCOME BACK. A LETTER CAME FROM THE DOCTOR
THE RESULTS?!

I SEE. GUESS THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT PUT OUR HOPES ON THE NEXT SET OF NEW SUPPLIERS...
WHAT'S ALEXI UP TO?
YEAH, BUT LONG STORY SHORT, THEY STILL CAN'T FIND ANYONE.
ALEXI MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO GET INTO THE NURSERY THIS SPRING.
SLEEPING. YOUR MOM WAS LOOKING AFTER HIM ALL MORNING.
I'LL GIVE HER A CALL LATER.

What the chart has here on Alexis mother... Is this really true?
I guess I don't know all the circumstances but finding another child compatible with this sort of background might be quite a task
...SAY, ALL THIS TROUBLE WE'VE HAD FINDING ALEX A PARTNER...
YOU DON'T THINK HIS BODY MIGHT BE...
YEAH...
DON'T GO TAKING A BACK-HANDED JAB LIKE THAT SERIOUSLY. IT'S PERFECTLY COMMON TO FIND A PARTNER AFTER YOU TURN FOUR. HE'S A LITTLE LATE, THAT'S
COME ON. ARE YOU STILL HUNG UP ON WHAT THAT NURSE SAID BEFORE?

That's the age when a supplier begins to make power inside their body and a receiver's body begins to require that power to survive.
Around the age of three or four, the body types of the people in this country differentiate into either suppliers or receivers.
Small children only require power transfers once a day, but [illegible] we need it two or three times a day, with once being more like a bare minimum.
When a birth is registered, the child's body type is also submitted, so that when the time comes they can find the most compatible partner available.
Our bodies become unable to live without one another, almost like an addiction.
Normally a partner is found around three or four, and after the children attend a seminar to gradually acclimate them to giving and receiving power, they enter the nursery.

HAVE YOU ALREADY HAD DINNER?
NOPE, NOT YET
I'LL MAKE US SOMETHING SIMPLE THEN
YEAH...
SURE, THREE AND A HALF MIGHT BE THE USUAL AGE, BUT THE NURSERY ACCEPTS KIDS IN ALL YEAR ROUND.
SO LONG AS WE CAN PULL HIM THROUGH TILL HE TURNS SEVEN AND GOES TO SCHOOL, IT SHOULD ALL WORK OUT.
BEFORE YOU GET TO THAT...

SOMEONE'S BEEN WORKING HARD TODAY.
ALEXI, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY TOMORROW?
HAMBURGERS.
EH? BUT WE HAD HAMBURGERS YESTERDAY...
FLO-RAN!

"WE ARE MAILING TO INFORM YOU THAT A SUPPLIER COMPATIBLE WITH ALEXI WAS FOUND IN THIS MONTH'S LIST OF NEWLY DEVELOPED SUPPLIERS."
ALRIGHT, ALEXI! WE'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU A PARTNER!
SORRY TO CATCH YOU ON YOUR WAY OUT. I'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE FOR YOU.
T-THANK YOU!
It's from the doctor!
"AN INTRODUCTORY MEET AND GREET WILL BE HELD FOR PARENTS AT THE HOSPITAL."
"THE MONTHLY MEETING CEREMONY WILL BE HELD NEXT SUNDAY AND WE WELCOME YOUR PARTICIPATION."
HOHOHO NEXT WEEK...
ISN'T THIS GREAT, ALEXI?!
AND JUST WHEN YOU TURN FOUR! IT'S LIKE A BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
ぎゅ

OH, YEAH AND THE NAME OF YOUR PARTNER IS...
GIL! YOU THINK THIS ONE LOOKS WEIRD?
RAEL... EH?
A BOY?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR PARTNER YOU'RE GOING TO MEET!
GEEZ. WHAT DOES IT MATTER? IT SUITS YOU, ALRIGHT?

SAY, GIL SINCE ALEXI'S PARTNER IS A GUY TOO YOU THINK THAT KIND OF THING'S GENETIC THEN?
SAME SEX PARTNERS ARE SORT OF RARE, AFTER ALL
STUPID, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH GENETICS. IT'S PERFECTLY NORMAL
I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER ALEXI'S GOING TO BE ABLE TO TRANSFER POWER WELL WITH HIS NEW PARTNER. MY STOMACH'S ALL UPSET...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A BAD IMPRESSION ON THE OTHER KID'S PARENTS!
PEOPLE DON'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY WHEN THEY SEE MY AGE AND HOW YOUNG A FATHER I MUST HAVE BEEN I WANT TO START THIS OUT RIGHT
WELL OUR FIRST TRANSFER WAS PRETTY SMOOTH, RIGHT?!
WELL, YEAH I GUESS IT'D WORK FINE IF ALEXI GOT SOME CHIRPY GUY LIKE YOU WHO CAN GUIDE HIM ALONG
AAAH
THIS IS REALLY GETTING TO ME MAYBE I'LL COME AFTER ALL
TWO GUYS GOING TOGETHER?! ANYWAY, IF YOU'RE ONLY STARTING TO GET READY NOW WE'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!

I'LL BE READY IN TEN!
I'M NOT A SLUG LIKE YOU!
ダッ
Hey that's harsh
My glasses are falling!
CLAIRE! WE DON'T NEED TO RUN LIKE THIS! WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME!
BUT THAT HOSPITAL IS HUGE! WE COULD GET LOST INSIDE
IF WE SHOW UP LATE TO THE FIRST MEETING WE'LL LOOK AWFUL IN FRONT OF THE OTHER PARENTS!

I'M GOING TO DO THIS RIGHT TODAY IF I WANT TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WITH THAT OTHER BOY'S MOM, A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION IS VITAL!
IT'S FINE, REALLY.
I'D SAY SHOWING UP WITH THAT CRAZED OUT HAIR'S GOING TO COME OFF A LOT STRANGER THAN THAT.
AH! IS MY HAIR MESSED UP?!
THIS BOY ALEXI'S PARENTS GIL AND FLORAN, RIGHT?
BOTH ARE GUY'S NAMES SO JUST FROM THE PAPER THERE'S NO WAY TOO TELL WHO THE MOM IS
WELL, THERE ARE GIRLS' NAMES THAT ARE SOMETIMES USED FOR GUYS, RIGHT? SO THE REVERSE MUST BE TRUE TOO
AH CLAIRE, IN FRONT OF YOU!
EH?
AH!

COME ON, CLAIRE GET UP!
Ouch
OH, NO! SHE WAS THE ONE NOT LOOKING WHERE SHE WAS GOING!
OH! EXCUSE ME!
I REALLY AM SORRY!
AH, ARE YOU HEADED TO THE MEET AND GREET TOO?
YEP. WITH OUR LITTLE GUY HERE
He's an awfully young father!
IS THAT SO? AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

OH, DEAR.
SORRY, HE'S A LITTLE SHY... COME ON, ALEXI. YOU CAN SAY HELLO, RIGHT?
DID YOU SAY ALEXI?
YEAH?
I-I'M RAEL'S MOTHER, CLAIRE!
AND THEN YOU.
YOU'RE RAEL'S MOTHER?
YOU MUST BE ALEXI'S FATHER GIL!

YES I'M ALEXI'S FATHER, FLORAN.
AND THIS IS MY PARTNER, GIL.
NICE TO MEET YOU
...ER, WELL...
OH, I'M SORRY ARE YOU FLORAN?
...EH? YOUR PARTNER?
YOU'RE BOTH GUYS?
YES..
ALEXI'S MOTHER... SHE'S NOT HERE

THANK YOU FOR GATHERING HERE TODAY
AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHEDULE LEADING UP TO THEIR ENTRY INTO THE NURSERY DORMITORY CHILDREN GATHER IN A SEPARATE ROOM FOR POWER EXCHANGE PRACTICE
PARENTS MAY RETIRE TO THE HOSPITAL CONSERVATORY FOR REFRESHMENTS AND A CHANCE TO TALK—
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TALK TO RAEL'S PARENTS?
YOU WERE ALREADY PREPARED FOR THE FACT THE OTHER PARENTS WOULD BE SURPRISED, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH—

DOES IT REALLY MATTER? EVERYONE'S GOT THEIR OWN SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY SEEMED LIKE NICE PEOPLE, DIDN'T THEY?
AND HOW ARE OUR KIDS SUPPOSED TO GET ALONG IF WE'VE GOT TENSION BETWEEN US ALREADY?
CLAIRE, IS IT REALLY OK NOT TO TALK TO HIS PARENTS?
WELL THEY AREN'T REALLY "HIS PARENTS."
ぱく ぱく
YEAH, I GET IT— I JUST...
I JUST WANTED SO MUCH FOR IT TO BE LIKE THIS OR THAT!
WE SHOULD COME OVER AND VISIT SOME TIME
OH, WE LIVE PRETTY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER!
WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE KIDS ON A PICNIC TOGETHER?
THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL!
UM...

HERE YOU GO
THANK YOU.
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
UM. IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING, YOU'RE PRETTY YOUNG AREN'T YOU?
OH I'M TWENTY TWO
Twenty two?! And I'd heard that Alexi is four years old, so He had him at eighteen?!
I-I'D THOUGHT YOU LOOKED YOUNG BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO
YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG YOURSELF
—ER, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME FOR SPEAKING OF A LADY'S AGE—

NO, IT'S FINE. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M PRETTY YOUNG, TOO
I HAD RAEL WHEN I WAS JUST TWENTY
UM. I IMAGINE IT MUST BE A BIT OF A SURPRISE TO HAVE RAEL'S PARTNER BE ANOTHER BOY
NOT TO MENTION FINDING THE PARENTS ARE A SAME-SEX PAIR TOO...
AND THERE'S ALEXI BEING A YEAR OLDER SINCE THERE WAS TROUBLE FINDING HIM A PARTNER...
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I WON'T DO TO HELP ALEXI AND RAEL'S PAIRING GO WELL!
RAEL IS THE PARTNER WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THIS TIME!

WE JUST WANT TO HELP THOSE KIDS BE HAPPY.
ANYWAY, RAEL AND ALEXI ENDING UP IN A SAME-SEX PAIR IS JUST A COINCIDENCE.
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THIS ALREADY, BUT PARTNERS ARE FATED TO BE TOGETHER.
BEING THE SAME WAY OURSELVES
G'IL AND I UNDERSTAND THERE CAN BE CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES HAVING A SAME-SEX PARTNER, BUT...
PHIL AND I WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN, TOO
I'M SURE THERE'S QUITE A STORY BEHIND ALEXI'S BIRTH
UP TILL NOW I'VE NEVER EVEN MET ANY SAME SEX PARTNERS WITH CHILDREN
BUT FROM THE LOOK OF THE TWO OF YOU, I'D SAY HE CAN'T BE ADOPTED, AT LEAST

My partner seems dependable?
I CAN IMAGINE I ADMIT I WAS SURPRISED, BUT IT'S LIKE PHIL WAS SAYING TO ME EARLIER. IT'S NO CAUSE FOR US TO LET THINGS BE TENSE BETWEEN US
AND YOUR PARTNER SEEMS LIKE A REALLY DEPENDABLE GUY.
WELL, IT'S A PRETTY LONG STORY...
LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER.
TO HELP OUR KIDS BUILD THE FAITH AND TRUST THEY NEED IN THEIR PARTNERS
BUT GOING OUT DRINKING SURROUNDED BY THREE YOUNG MEN ISN'T TOO SHABBY, EITHER.
HONESTLY, I WAS REALLY HOPING TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH ALEXI'S MOTHER.
AND WHY DON'T THE FOUR OF US GET A DRINK TOGETHER SOMETIME? I'M REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT SOME THINGS
R-RIGHT.

ALRIGHT! IS EVERYONE STANDING BY THEIR PARTNER?
YES!
YES!
キャア
キャア
THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU NOW IS THE PARTNER YOU'RE GOING TO BE WITH ALL THE TIME FROM NOW ON!
LET'S TRY ASKING FOR ONE ANOTHER'S NAMES
Aahh
Yeah
I'm Colette!
Eek!
COME ON, EVERY-ONE! YOU'VE GOT TO TURN TO YOUR PARTNER AND SPEAK TO THEM!

HELLO
I'M RAEL.

HOW
ABOUT
YOU?

!!
じゃ
?

OH, DEAR. IT'S ALRIGHT HE'S JUST A LITTLE SHY, THAT'S ALL
NOW, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
A-ALEX!
TEACHER! HE'S CRYING!
I'M SO SORRY THE WAY HE IS
Granted we expected this but...
OH, NOT AT ALL. ONLY ABOUT HALF THE KIDS MANAGE TO CHARGE THEIR FIRST TIME. HE'LL GET USED TO IT WITH TIME.
JUST BE SURE TO KEEP TAKING HIM TO THE SEMINARS.

ALRIGHT!
Those two sure look close all the sudden
HAVE THAT DRIVEN LOOK
THE NEXT ONE IS IN THREE DAYS
WE KNOW IT'S TOUGH FOR YOU PARENTS TO PIT IN TIL THEY MAKE IT IN TO THE NURSERY. BUT HANG IN THERE ALRIGHT?
NO LUCK THIS TIME EITHER
IT'S SO HARD
THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT FROM THIS MONTH'S SEMINAR THAT HAVEN'T MANAGED TO CHARGE.
TO THINK ALEX! COULD REALLY BE THIS SHY...

...I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IT DOES MAKE YOU WONDER.
ONCE HE SEES HOW GOOD CHARGING FEELS AFTER THE FIRST TIME, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEM, RIGHT?
HEY. YOU WANT SOME CANDY?
munch
munch
IF HE DOESN'T GET SOME SOON, I THINK IT'S GOING TO START WEARING ON HIM.
SINCE ALEXI'S ALREADY FOUR, HIS BODY'S BEEN WAITING TO RECEIVE POWER FOR A GOOD WHILE NOW.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO EAT IT?
THANKS
I'LL GET THE WRAPPER OFF FOR YOU.
ペリ
ペリ
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE HUNGRY BEFORE?
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE HUNGRY!
I DON'T WANT IT
HERE

カクニ
M-MAMA!
MAMA SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH ALEX!!

A-ALEXI WAS HUNGRY! BUT WHEN I GAVE HIM CANDY HE WOULDN'T EAT IT!
Probably isn't the issue here...
Hunger...
ALEXI!
RAEL, WILL YOU GIVE ALEXI SOME POWER?

BUT...
IT'S OK.
Imagine something deep in his body you need so much you can hardly stand it
Pull it toward you

Know it once,
and you'll never
be able to part.
This other person...
This fate...
ハル
かしゃ

I CAN'T GET UP...
IT'S HARD TO CONTROL YOURSELF THE FIRST TIME. YOU END UP GIVING OUT WAY TOO MUCH.
OH MY.
CLAIRE, I'LL PULL THE CAR AROUND TO PICK UP RAEL.
YOU CAN STAND NOW, RIGHT ALEX!?
YEAH...

I'M GLAD ALEXI WAS ABLE TO ENROLL IN THE NURSERY AT THE SAME TIME AS ALL THE OTHER KIDS FROM HIS SEMINAR CLASS
ALRIGHT!
THOUGH IT'S GOING TO BE LONELY ONLY GETTING TO SEE HIM ON WEEKENDS AND LONG HOLIDAYS
YEAH BUT SO LONG AS THOSE TWO HAVE EACH OTHER I'M SURE THEY'LL BE OK

WELL AREN'T WE PREPARED?
I THOUGHT I'D SEND A PICTURE TO HIS MOM.
HEY, RAEL! ALEXI! STAND CLOSE!
READY FOR YOUR PICTURE!
WE WERE THE SAME WAY, AFTER ALL. IT'S SOMETHING EVERY PARENT KNOWS WHEN THEY STAND READY TO SEND THEIR KIDS OFF.
TO LET HER KNOW THAT ALEXI'S FOUND HIMSELF A FANTASTIC PARTNER.
SMILE YOU TWO!

Alexi, age four.
Rael, age three.
The spring they became partners.

amber loVE PJ

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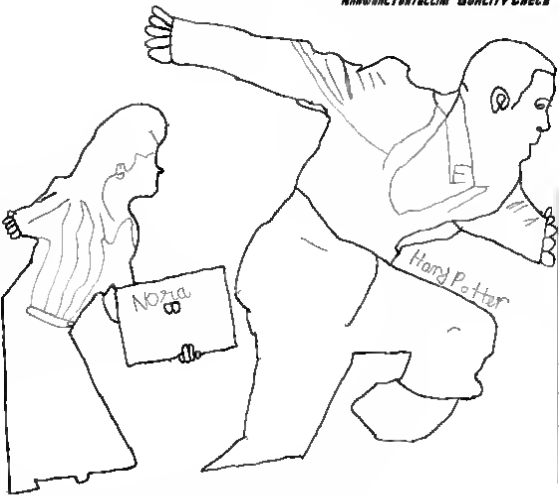

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第9章
今日も明日も

HAAA.
Hey, Alexi
It's morning
MMM
Huh It was perky enough last night yet now it's wilting
Aah Looks like it's morning now

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE WILTING.
A FLOWER THAT ONLY FLOURISHES AT NIGHT.
HOWEVER MANY EXPERIMENTS OR STUDIES PEOPLE DO, EVERYONE INVOLVED'S ALWAYS UP ALL NIGHT CLAMORING BEFORE THE BIG PAYOFF.
NOT THAT I'M PARTICULARLY INVOLVED WITH THIS WHOLE FLOWER THING.
THANKS FOR THE HAND.
I TOTALLY FORGOT.
HEY, THERE. YOU SO SPACEY YOU FORGOT YOU DIDN'T CHARGE?
THOUGH BY THE WAY, ALEXI. IN ALL THAT COMMOTION HELPING OUT LAST NIGHT, YOU DID MAKE SURE TO LET RAEL KNOW YOU WERE GOING TO BE OUT ALL NIGHT, RIGHT?

ELIAS! WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S AWFULLY EARLY...
I can't operate this sleepy
KEEL!
I WAS GOING TO WAIT FOR YOU AT HOME. BUT SINCE I WAS HEADING OUT TO MY LESSONS NEXT ANYWAY I STOPPED BY
I KNOW
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO CHARGE?
KEEL, YOU LOOK AWFULLY WORN OUT. DID YOU SLEEP?
I'LL BE OK
I JUST GOT UP FROM A LITTLE NAP

YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL NOW, RIGHT ELIAS? I CAN DROP YOU OFF
YOU HEADED HOME NOW?
YEAH I NEED TO CHARGE I'M AT MY LIMIT
カッカッ
YEAH
WASH YOUR FACE TO WAKE YOURSELF UP BEFORE YOU DRIVE BE CAREFUL!
THANKS... GUESS I'LL TAG ALONG.
Rael's not going to be happy...

OF COURSE RAEL'S NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY...
YEAH, I KNOW...
ゴォ
オォ
ブロロロ
IT CAN BE TOUGH WITH KEEL SOMETIMES, BUT SINCE HE GOT INTO UNIVERSITY AND WE STARTED LIVING TOGETHER, HE AT LEAST LETS ME KNOW IF HE'S GOING TO BE LATE.
YOU NEED TO DO THE SAME THING, ALEX! POOR RAEL HOME ALL ALONE WAITING TO HEAR FROM HIS PARTNER!
Geez, what a nag.
ゴォ
Rael!

I CAN HEAR YOUR EXCUSES LATER. RIGHT NOW I NEED TO GET TO SCHOOL.
ER... I'M SORRY I FORGOT TO CALL...
RAEL!
BUT... BUT THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE.
TODAY,
YOU DON'T GET A CHOICE!

THANKS FOR THE RIDE, ALEX! I'M GONNA HEAD OFF NOW
THANKS!
YOU GOING TO YOUR LESSONS? HAVE A GOOD PRACTICE!
HUH? OH... YEAH, TAKE CARE.

SO WAS RAEL ANGRY?
YEAH! USUALLY HE DOESN'T CHARGE IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE SINCE HE KNOWS ALEXI HATES IT SO MUCH. BUT THIS TIME HE GRABBED HIM BY THE COLLAR AND CHARGED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!
YOU'RE REALLY GIVING IT ALL YOU'VE GOT
もぐもぐ
WHEN'S YOUR PERFORMANCE AGAIN?
let's eat
I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH MY LESSONS IF I CAN'T CHARGE IN THE MORNING
BUT I'M GOING TO BE GETTING BUSIER NOW TOO WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE KEEP EACH OTHER UP TO DATE

IT'S THE WINTER NIGHT FESTIVAL!
THE KING'S EVEN COMING TO HEAR IT!
GEEZ, I TOLD YOU IT'S THIS WEEKEND! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT! IT'S MY LAST ONE THIS YEAR!
ガタン
IT'D BE ONE THING IF YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW, BUT WE TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME!
THE WINTER NIGHT FESTIVAL, YEAH
A THREE HOUR LONG END OF THE YEAR CONCERT
ムフー
I WAS SELECTED FROM EVERYONE!
YEAH! AND I'VE GOT A REALLY IMPORTANT SOLO!
WELL I'VE ALREADY GOT A TICKET FOR YOU! AND THEY'RE REALLY EXPENSIVE, TOO!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO SPENDS HIS TIME AT A PART TIME JOB POURING OVER BOOKS WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO AFFORD ONE!
IT'S AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO SIT DOWN!

SERI-OUSLY?
I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO MAKE IT TO A FEW OF YOUR PERFORMANCES, AFTER ALL
Alright, alright.
IT WAS A JOKE, OK? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE TO SEE YOU IN YOUR MOMENT OF GLORY. I'VE GOT THE TIME OFF AND EVERYTHING
I MEAN, THAT'S MY POWER YOU'RE SINGING WITH, RIGHT?
SERI-OUSLY!
AND I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET ALL THE CHARG-ING YOU NEED EVERY MORNING!
RIGHT!

WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S AWFULLY EARLY, ISN'T IT?
I GOT A CALL FROM THE UNIVERSITY. I NEED TO HEAD OVER NOW.
YEAH!
I'LL BE A LITTLE LATE GETTING HOME, BUT WHY DON'T WE EAT OUT TONIGHT? IT'S BEEN A WHILE. YOU'VE GOT A LESSON LATER TODAY, THOUGH, RIGHT?
OH. WHEN YOU GOING TO BE BACK?
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
SORRY TO DO THIS WHEN WE'RE STILL GROGGY

SEE YOU TONIGHT!
YEAH!
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
The feeling of power flowing through your body after a charge always feels great.

Because of Keel, I'm able to live. To sing. Every single morning reaffirms that.
A warmth like sunlight soaking through every inch of you.
The mornings and nights have been getting colder.
He's definitely growing up, but it wasn't so long ago he was running around in his knee breeches hugging his score in his arms just like that.
キャマ
These kids must be even younger than Elias

THE WIND SURPRISED ME!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
EEK!
ビュッ
OH! THANKS MISTER!
OH NO, IT'S GETTING AWAY!
NEED SOME HELP?

WATCH OUT!

ALRIGHT. WE'LL DO ANOTHER RUN THROUGH WITH THE CHORUS THIS AFTERNOON.
YES, SIR.
BLIAS, YOU WANNA EAT LUNCH TOGETHER?
SURE.
HUH, HAPPILY, I STILL GET ALL WORKED UP AND TENSE BEFORE A BIG PERFORMANCE.
GETTING TO BE IN A BIG PERFORMANCE LIKE THIS IS LIKE A DREAM, EVEN JUST BEING IN THE CHORUS. BUT MAN, THE PRACTICE DOESN'T END.
THOUGH AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE THIS MUST JUST FEEL LIKE BUSINESS AS USUAL TO YOU, HUH?

ELIAS, YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!
YOUNG MAN, ONLY AUTHORIZED MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED...
huff
huff
...ELIAS.
I'll...
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE?
ALEX!
KEEL'S BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT.
KEEL...

Tina sure is late... We don't have much time in the practice room today, either.

YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME!
ELIAS...!
TINA...

TINA'S BEEN IN AN ACCIDENT!

Keel's...
been...
in an accident...

I never thought I'd taste despair like that ever again. If I ever was forced through a second time .
To feel the lose of a partner, to have no idea how my life could even go on...
No idea how to even pull myself through...
WHAT...

What would I... even do...?
IT'S DISGUSTING!
THE PAPERS ARE PLASTERED WITH THIS STUFF. NOT THAT IT'S ANY DIFFERENT FROM WHEN HE LOST HIS PARTNER BEFORE.
"TWO PARTNERS, TWO TRAGEDIES!" "A CURSED SIREN?!" "INJURED PARTNER KEEL, STILL COMATOSE." "TIME TO SEEK ANOTHER SOLOIST?" —ON AND ON
THOSE WRITERS CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT THEIR PARTNERS ANY BETTER THAN THE REST OF US!
YET THEY'VE STILL GOT THE GALL TO PUT STUFF LIKE THAT ON PAPER!
—HOW'S KEEL DOING?
IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE'S PROBLEM.
HE NEEDED A LOT OF PATCHING UP, BUT HE'S ALIVE.
BUT HE HASN'T WOKEN UP...

I'M GOING BACK TO THE HOSPITAL TOMORROW
...I SEE
WHAT?
I'M JUST GOING TO WARN YOU NOW
BUT IF ELIAS IS OK WITH IT, I PLAN TO LET HIM CHARGE OFF ME
LOOK, I'M NOT AS FUSSY AS I USED TO BE, ALRIGHT? IT'S AN EMERGENCY I'LL UNDERSTAND
You think? Doesn't seem like you've changed much to me.

...WILL HE PERFORM, THOUGH?
I BET IT'S SORT OF THE SAME FOR ELIAS, TOO. I'M SURE HE'LL FEEL BETTER CHARGING WITH SOMEONE HE KNOWS RATHER THAN A COMPLETE STRANGER
SINCE I WAS ASKED TO BE A VOLUNTEER SUPPLIER FOR HIM BEFORE WE'VE GOT TO BE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT COMPATIBLE. AND HE'S GOT A BIG PERFORMANCE COMING UP. THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.
!!!
RAEL— ALEX!!
ELIAS!

...
WE CAME TO VISIT!
THANKS, GUYS.
BUT I'M DOING ALRIGHT!
WE'RE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON OUR PERFORMANCE TODAY, AND I NEED TO BE READY!
ARE YOU OK? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GREAT.
UH, WELL NOT TO BE DEPRESSING, BUT I DIDN'T EXACTLY SLEEP WELL
I'M NOT THE ONE THAT WAS IN AN ACCIDENT.
I'VE... GOT TO HOLD IT TOGETHER.
OF COURSE... I'M A PROFESSIONAL, AFTER ALL.
YOU'RE GOING?!

...CHARGING! AM I OK TO STAND IN FOR KEEL?
UM WELL IS IT REALLY OK?
You don't look fine with it
IT'S FINE! I MEAN, CONSIDERING THE SITUATION
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CHARGE COMPLETELY SINCE I'LL STILL NEED SOME FOR ALEXI, BUT
OUR POWER SHOULD BE ALRIGHT FOR YOU
THANK YOU

WE CAN STAY BY KEEL FOR A WHILE, SO GO AHEAD TO YOUR PRAC-TICE
ALRIGHT! THANKS GUYS!

I THINK I'M DOING PRETTY GOOD TOO, IF I'M ANY JUDGE.
PRACTICE FINISHED UP REALLY WELL. EVERYONE'S SOUNDING GOOD.
KEEL, CAN YOU HEAR ME? TOMORROWS THE REAL THING
ボフ
THOUGH IT'D BE BEST OF ALL IF I COULD SHARE SOME POWER WITH YOU
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT EITHER WAY, THOUGH...
BUT...
I'M GIVING THIS EVERYTHING I'VE GOT
EVEN IF I CAN'T HAVE YOUR POWER, I'M STILL GOING TO DO WHAT I CAN

BUT THIS IS STILL...
STILL SO SCARY I CAN HARDLY STAND IT!
IF I END UP ALONE AGAIN...
I JUST CAN'T DO IT...!
ゴーン
ゴーン

Haa...
CRAP, I'M SO NERVOUS!
DID YOU EAT BREAKFAST? CHARGE WITH YOUR PUPIL-HIM?
OF COURSE!
ELIAS, HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO CHARGE?
YEAH, A SUPPLIER FRIEND OF MINE GAVE ME SOME
OH...
THIS IS ROUGH FOR YOU TOO, HUH?
YEAH— BUT I'M SURE MY PARTNER WILL BE REALLY HAPPY TO HEAR THE PERFORMANCE WAS A SUCCESS WHEN HE WAKES UP.
YEAH!
LET'S DO IT!

SIX
Shssst
Ksshhhh
IT SHOULD BE STARTING SOON
WHAT STATION IS IT AGAIN?
Ksshhhh
BROADCATING NOW FIFTEEN MINUTES TILL THE CURTAIN RISES IN ORION THEATER THIS WINTER FESTIVAL NIGHT,
Kssshhh Shhh
A PERFORMANCE THAT'S BECOME A TRADITION FOR THIS HISTORIC THEATER. TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WILL INCLUDE
WORKS FROM A TREASURED COMPOSER TO OUR COUNTRY, AND THE PIECE HE USED TO ANNOUNCE HIS FINAL YEAR IN COMPOSING.
SOUNDS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO GET GOING
AAH~ NOW I'M GETTING NERVOUS TOO!

Keel...
It's been a long year, and things are rough with Keel. But I want to sing my thanks for all the people and things that have made it, and my hope for happiness in the next.
Sing so that all the people in this theater... So that all the people listening can hear.
IT'S TIME
CURTAIN'S COMING UP!
ゴーン
ゴーン
ゴーン
ゴーン
It'll be ok... I've just got to do it like always.

For...
For the people who've supported me...
For Keel...
From the bottom of my heart.
I'll sing.

HE'S AMAZING
I WONDER IF KEEL CAN HEAR.
twitch
RAEL!

And reach them through it!

...KEEL!
SS
KEEL! HE'S
HUH?
IF YOU WANT ELIAS THEN YOU CAN HEAR HIM RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?!
IT'S HIM SINGING!

YEAH
I HEAR HIM
I'LL GET THE DOCTOR!

KEEL!
ELIAS, WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU HAVE SCHOOL?
YEAH, BUT NOT TILL TWO. I THOUGHT I COULD STOP BY BEFORE CLASS
DON'T OVERDO IT, ALRIGHT? YOU'VE GOT LESSONS TODAY TOO, RIGHT? I'M FINE NOW, REALLY
YOU'RE NOT FINE! YOU WERE IN A COMA THREE DAYS AGO! YOU'VE JUST BARELY RECOVERED!
I CAN'T STAY LONG ANYWAY I'VE GOT A MEETING WITH RAEL TO CHARGE BEFORE SCHOOL
OH... SO YOU'RE CHARGING WITH RAEL INSTEAD OF GETTING SET UP WITH A VOLUNTEER?
THAT'S RIGHT! AND HERE, THESE ARE THE BOOKS YOU ASKED FOR! JEEZ THEY'RE HEAVY!
ALRIGHT... I'M GOING NOW I'LL SEE YOU AT THE USUAL TIME TONIGHT...

COME HERE
ELIAS
WHAT?
...
はっ
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING!
W-
WE CAN'T!

BUT MY BODY'S BACK UP AN RUN-NING, AND POWER'S BUILDING UP LIKE NORMAL
THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN FEEL FOR MYSELF BETTER THAN ANYONE
REALLY?
YEAH
カリ…ン

Ah! I remember,now
The reason I was able to pull myself through after I'd lost Tina...

Was because I had you
Because of you.
KEEL

I'M SORRY.
I WASN'T ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY POWER ON THE DAY OF YOUR BIG PERFORMANCE..
KEEL...
SNIFF...
KEEL...
SNIFF...

BUT IT'S A RELIEF, TOO THAT EVEN WITHOUT MY POWER,
YOU STILL KEPT YOURSELF STRONG
YEAH...
AND WERE ABLE TO MOVE SO MANY PEOPLE
THAT'S NOT EVEN TRUE I WAS SO SCARED
SO SCARED I COULDN'T EVEN THINK STRAIGHT, ASKING MYSELF OVER AND OVER WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU
YOU'RE ALL I HAVE RIGHT NOW...
I KNOW YOU WON'T STAY A CUTE KID LIKE THIS FOREVER
SO WHEN YOU ASK ME FOR THINGS LIKE THAT, I CAN'T HELP BUT BE HAPPY

HAHA

I live feeling the strength of your power.
Today and on
through tomorrow

Today On Through Tomorrow

IT'S GOOD KEEL'S RECOVERED WELL ENOUGH TO BE CHARG-ING AGAIN
I'M GLAD
YEAH
IT'S ALWAYS BEST TO BE ABLE TO CHARGE WITH YOUR OWN PARTNER
I'M HOME!
YEAH.
AND CHARGING TWO PEOPLE ALL THE TIME IS EXHAUSTING, EVEN FOR JUST A FEW DAYS

NOW I CAN GO BACK TO GIVING TO YOU AS USUAL, TOO.
NO NEED TO MAKE SURE I'M SAVING ANYTHING.
—YEAH, THAT'LL BE GOOD.

...MPH.
!!
WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING ME ALL TO YOURSELF AGAIN?
YOU DOPE...

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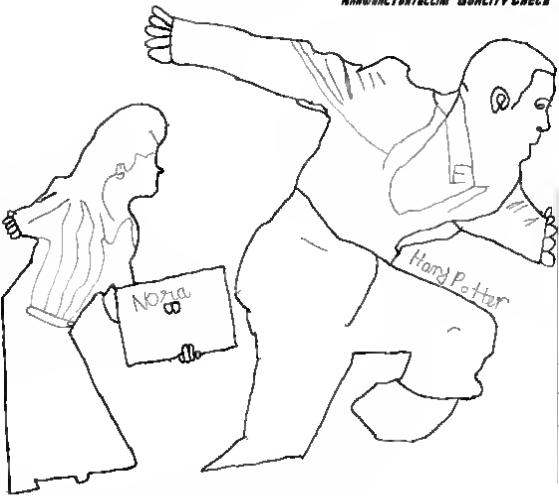
NarwhalTortellim Scanner
NarwhalTortellim Translator
Arianna Editor
NarwhalTortellim Quality Check



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第10章
君がいる
場所に帰ろう

COME OVER HERE I'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU
ALEX!!
ちょ
ちょ
GOOD!
IT TOTALLY SUITS YOU! YOU'RE ADORABLE!
I APPROVE!
LOOK

WHEN WINTER COMES I'LL MAKE YOU A SCARF AND SOME MITTENS, TOO.
HEY, I COULD USE A SCARF TOO WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
OH. DID GIL MAKE THAT BAG FOR YOU, ALEX!? IT SURE IS NICE, HUH?
VERY COOL. YOU LIKE IT, DON'T YOU!?
NO! ON ALEX! IT'S CUTE BUT NOTHING'S GOING TO FIX YOU!
Such prejudice when we've got the same face!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY HOLD OFF ON THE CHARGING, TOO. YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS GOING RIGHT NOW, RIGHT? DON'T WANT TO CHANCE CATCHING IT.
ALRIGHT.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR COLD? ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
I'M TAKING THE DAY OFF, ACTUALLY SEEMS LIKE I'M GETTING A FEVER

My name is Gil. I'm a student going to university.
The guy with the cold is my partner Floran,
And his little miniature twin is Alexi.
THE LADY NEXT DOOR SAYS SHE CAN LOOK AFTER ALEXI TILL THIS EVENING
THAT'LL BE PLENTY I SHOULD BE BACK PRETTY QUICK TODAY
SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING

Oh That scarf's a nice color
WANNA GO OUT FOR LUNCH?
MY SECOND CLASS GOT CANCELED
I'll definitely have to make Alexi that scarf and mittens
Alexi is Floran's kid, which is a story in itself.
But I've been watching over him since he was born so he's basically mine too
IT'S GETTING WORSE
ドキン
ドキン
Yikes—

SO WHEN IT GETS HERE YOU'LL NEED TO HEAT IT UP AND GIVE ALEX!
WE'LL BE FINE, JUST GET SOME SLEEP!
THE LADY NEXT DOOR SAID SHE'D BRING US OVER DINNER.
HEY, ALEX! DON'T COME IN HERE, OK? YOU MIGHT CATCH THE COLD
COLD?
THAT'S RIGHT LET'S GO HAVE DINNER ALRIGHT?
GIL. YOU MIGHT WANT TO FIND A TEMPORARY PARTNER FOR CHARGING... THIS MIGHT TAKE A WHILE
OK I'LL PUT IN A REQUEST TOMORROW AT SCHOOL DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
SORRY

EXCUSE ME...
I think that's in student affairs
Temporary partner applications...
I guess colds are pretty common at the turn of the season
Must be a flood of people coming in for a temp when their partner's under the weather
EXCUSE ME
UH

GIL
ARE YOU HERE FOR A TEMP PARTNER TOO?
UM, YOU'RE—
I'M PAMELA
WE'VE BEEN IN A LOT OF LECTURES TOGETHER
SAY, WHAT ARE YOU? I'M A SUPPLIER
I'M A RECEIVER
YEAH I THINK HE'LL BE BETTER IN TWO OR THREE DAYS, THOUGH
YOUR PARTNER'S GOT A COLD?
OH, RIGHT SORRY, MY MEMORY—
SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY GOING AROUND MY PARTNER'S GOT ONE TOO

WELL WHY DON'T YOU TEMP WITH ME FOR A FEW DAYS THEN?
GOING THROUGH AN OFFICIAL APPLICATION LOOKS LIKE A REAL PAIN NOW, ANYWAY
No harm, I guess. Anyone's alright just for a few days
And I haven't gotten to charge since yesterday
SURE
AAH

I should probably quit while I'm partnering with someone else
It's been a while since I've charged with anyone other than Floran...
You really can't get quite what you need with a temp
Though really I should just quit period. Since I've got a kid I can only do it at school anyway
When I first started Floran caught me straight off. Not that that's surprising
GIL, DID YOU TAKE UP SMOKING?

OF COURSE I CAN TELL.
SORRY
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT I CAN QUIT
CRAP
YOU CAN TELL?
HANDS OFF! YOU'RE A CHEF!
I DON'T MIND OR ANYTHING, BUT WHAT ARE THEY LIKE EXACTLY?
I just needed a little change of pace.
YEAH?
Between helping out with Alexi, school, and my part time job, I felt like I was being worked to death.
To be honest
NO PARTICULAR REASON
SO WHAT'S UP THAT MADE YOU START SMOKING?

He's like that no matter how many times I tell him Alexi's like a son to me.
He overworks himself and then ends up like this. That's way more troubling to me than anything he thinks he needs to feel bad about.
JUST DON'T GET YOURSELF KILLED ALRIGHT?
IT WOULDN'T END WELL FOR ME
Floran's just as busy as me, though.
But I think he feels bad for adding even more on to my troubles
The way he looks at me sometimes with that apologetic smile
NO HARM IN STAYING OUT FOR A BIT!
AGAIN? SO WHO IS IT THIS TIME?
GIL, YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN HIM IN THE LECTURE HALL. HE'S GOT BLACK HAIR.

YEAH
BUT I DON'T REMEMBER HIM VERY WELL HE'S THE REAL SOLID-LOOKING GUY, RIGHT?
SO WHAT. IS THIS AN ACTUAL DATE OR SOMETHING?
HIS PARTNER'S A GUY
THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL TURN ME DOWN.
DO YOU HAVE TO GO ON DOING THIS?
I FEEL BAD FOR JOEL.
I'LL ALWAYS CHARGE WITH JOEL. HE FEELS THE BEST.
BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM NOW
A PARTNER AND A LOVER ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS.

15
4"
4"
OH, ALEX! HAS GIL ALREADY GONE OFF TO SCHOOL?
YEAH.
I SEE YOU KNOW I'M BAKING MADELEINES TODAY. WOULD YOU LIKE A LITTLE SNACK?
M-MA'AM DO YOU HAVE A BAG OR SOME
I-I JUST THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK
AAH!
JUST A MINUTE!
HOLD ON! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

IS THERE ANY-THING YOU'D LIKE TO EAT?
NO THANKS, I'M NOT REALLY...
OH. BUT I WOULDN'T MIND AN APPLE, MAYBE
FEELING ANY BETTER? YOUR FEVER'S GONE DOWN QUITE A BIT
SORRY ABOUT THIS... I'M FEELING A LOT BETTER THAN YESTERDAY
WELL THEN I'LL GET YOU AN APPLE WHEN I GO OUT LATER. FOR NOW I'M GOING TO COOK SOMETHING UP FOR GIL AND ALEX! AND GET TO SOME OF THAT LAUNDRY TOO
THANK YOU SO MUCH... I'M REALLY MAKING THINGS HARD FOR GIL, TOO. I'VE GOTTA GET OVER THIS...
YOU JUST GET YOUR REST. YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE ANY HELP TO GIL IF YOU USE UP ALL YOUR POWER FIGHTING OFF A COLD.

キィ
きゅ！
THESE.
WHY HELLO THERE ALEX!! ON AN OUTING, ARE WE?
YOU WANT APPLES? HOW MANY?
Floran
Oh, me
THREE.

WAIT, HOLD ON! YOU'RE NOT WITH FLORIAN OR GIL...?!
THANKS.
HERE YOU GO. CAN YOU GET IT? IT'S A LITTLE HEAVY.
SORRY I'M LATE! THE LECTURE RAN A LITTLE LONG...

HUH?
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD GET SOMETHING TO EAT
YOU'RE ALL ALONE WITH YOUR PARTNER LAID UP, RIGHT?
DON'T SWEAT IT. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE LONG
ANYWAY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING TONIGHT?
WELL... YEAH, I GUESS...
But Alexi's waiting for me.
YOU WANNA COME OVER TO MY PLACE? MY PARTNER AND I ARE IN THE SAME APARTMENT COMPLEX, BUT WE RENT SEPARATE ROOMS.
SO NO ONE WILL BOTHER US
SO?

DO YOU HAVE TO WORK? IF IT'S NOT TOO LONG I CAN WAIT
I'M A PRETTY GOOD COOK!
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY REQUESTS I CAN HAVE IT READY FOR YOU LATER
OH .
I DUNNO
It's a proposition
Well, it has been a while
And the lady next door did say she'd look after Alexi
Oh So that's it
ALEXI!
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO CHARGE AGAIN TONIGHT ANYWAY, RIGHT? YOU CAN LET ME KNOW THEN
So long as I'm not too late
Huh?
YEAH

I shouldn't mind being watched since we're just charging and it's nothing to be ashamed of, so...
WHO'S THIS KID? IS HE LOST?
WHAT'S UP, ALEX!? DID YOU COME HERE WITH YOUR LADY FRIEND?
Why the crushing sense of guilt?!
ARE YOU OUT HERE ALONE?!
nod
HE'S SO CUTE! HOW OLD IS HE?
WHAT'S GOING ON GIL? ARE YOU BABY SITTING NOW TOO?
SAY, TH IT'S THE BAG YOU JUST FINISHED, ISN'T IT? THAT JACKET, TOO!

Ah... He's getting anxious.
IT'S SO CUTE TO SEE IT ON A REAL LITTLE KID!
OH, YEAH. THE ONES FOR CLASS.
YOU ACTUALLY MADE THEM FOR SOMEONE?
GIL, THIS KID...
OH!!
...HE'S MINE.
BASICALLY, ANYWAY
YOURS?! BUT HE CAN'T BE! HE...
HUH?
...SO WHAT IF HE IS?
BUT YOUR PARTNER'S A GUY!
And just how old could you have been when he was born?!

...THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF FAMILIES, ALRIGHT?
LET'S GO, ALEX!
GO
GO
...
HEY, DID YOU BUY THESE YOURSELF?
THEY'RE ALL BRUISED UP
SORRY, PAMELA I REALLY DON'T THINK I CAN SEE YOU TONIGHT
MY HEART'S NOT REALLY IN IT AFTER SEEING THIS LITTLE GUY'S FACE
...ALRIGHT

I'LL SEE YOU LATER MAYBE NOT TONIGHT.
BUT I CAN TREAT YOU TO LUNCH SOME-TIME IN THE CAFETERIA
OH~ SO THEN YOU TOTALLY GOT THE SHAFT.
SHUT UP!
SURE.

HE GET OVER HIS COLD?
NOT COMPLETELY.
SO, LESSON TO HELL AND BACK ON THE PROWL?
...I'M SLEEPING OVER AT JOEL'S TONIGHT.
BUT SOMEHOW...
I'M JUST REALLY IN THE MOOD TO CHARGE WITH MY PARTNER!

ALEXI, I DON'T WANT YOU GOING OUT ON YOUR OWN ANYMORE ALRIGHT? IT'S DANGEROUS
FLORAN MUST BE SO WORRIED
Whoa. That was close
I need to charge
I didn't really get anything from Pamela before
HM?
ARE YOU TIRED, GIL?
YEAH, JUST A LITTLE I'LL BE OK

ち
ゅ
むぎゅ
?!
FLORAN SAYS WHEN HE DOES THAT GIL FEELS ALL BETTER
PFF
PFFT HA-HAHA HA!
THANKS, ALEXI!

YEP
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND SOMEDAY TOO CAUSE YOU'LL HAVE A SPECIAL PERSON ALL YOUR OWN
DOES IT ONLY WORK FOR FLORAN? IS IT LIKE MAGIC?
YEAH CAUSE FLORAN IS A REALLY SPECIAL PERSON FOR ME
SPECIAL?
GIL!
WE'RE HOME!
パタ
パタ
パタ

ALEXI?!
CAUGHT MYSELF A LIVE ONE
BUT...
ALEXI'S WANDERED AWAY FROM THE HOUSE!
THE NEIGHBOR'S OUT LOOKING IN THE PARK, BUT...
Th-
Thank goodness
WERE YOU HEADED OUT TO LOOK FOR HIM? HOW ARE YOU DOING?
THE FEVER'S GONE DOWN.
WHERE DID ALEXI GO?
HE WAS OUT BY MY SCHOOL ALL ALONE.

BUT THERE'S A LOT OF TRAFFIC AROUND HERE
IT'S NOT THAT FAR, REALLY WE'VE PASSED BY IT WITH HIM PLENTY OF TIMES BEFORE, SO HE MUST HAVE REMEMBERED
ALL THE WAY TO THE SCHOOL?!
IT STOPS MY HEART THINKING OF HIM WALKING AROUND OUT THERE ALONE
GEEZ, ALEX!..
I'D BE A LOT MORE COMFORTABLE IF WE LIVED IN SOME SUBURB OR SOMETHING WITH MORE SAFE PLACES FOR KIDS TO BE OUT
THAT'D BE A LOT FARTHER FROM THE UNIVERSITY, THOUGH
WELL YOU'D BE FARTHER FROM WORK, TOO. THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT ME. BUT THIS PLACE IS PRETTY CRAMPED FOR ALL OF US, ANYWAY. AND I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING A BIGGER WORKSHOP.
THANK YOU
GIL

LET'S GO TO THE PARK TO FIND THE NEIGHBOR LADY, ALEXI. THEN WE CAN PEEL APPLES TOGETHER WHEN WE GET HOME.
YOU GOT THESE ALL BY YOURSELF!
OK!
AFTER WE LET THE NEIGHBOR KNOW WE'VE FOUND ALEXI I'M GOING TO PEEL THESE APPLES. YOU WANT SOME?
THEY'RE A LITTLE ROUGHED UP.
SURE, THANKS.

...GIL, DID YOU QUIT SMOKING?
AH, NO. I JUST FIGURED I SHOULD HOLD OFF WHILE I WAS WITH A TEMP PARTNER.
I SEE! AND I TAKE IT SHE WAS FEMALE?
Such a gentleman!
NI
NI
CUT IT OUT.
...HEY,
YOU CAN STOP MAKING THAT FACE, YOU KNOW.
WELL, YEAH.

Y-
YEAH...
I MADE A PROMISE TO ILSE JUST LIKE YOU THAT I WAS GOING TO LOVE AND RAISE ALEXI AS MY OWN CHILD.
HUH?
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO FEEL SORRY ABOUT. SO QUIT MAKING THAT FACE.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DO ME A FAVOR,
STOP FRETTING OVER STUPID STUFF AND GET OVER THE DAMN COLD.

...WHAT IF I'M STILL CONTAGIOUS?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT ONLY WORKS WITH YOU, ANYWAY
YOU'RE MY LITTLE MAGIC CHARM NOTHING MAKES ME FEEL BETTER
SHUT UP! ALEX! WAS THE ONE THAT SAID IT!
YOU SAY SOME PRETTY EMBARRASSING STUPP SOMETIMES.
Your magic charm?
Oh~
BLUSH
ANYWAY YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A LOT OF POWER TO GIVE! HURRY UP AND GET BETTER!
This cold must be getting to me if I'm getting teary over something like this.
Only with me... huh?

BUT THE THINGS YOU SAY...
MAKE ME SO HAPPY SOME-TIMES...
MAN, I THOUGHT I'D GROW OUT OF ALL THESE TEARS,
ONCE I BECAME A DAD!

I DON'T WANT ALEX! TO SEE ME CRY! YOU GO AHEAD!
AW, TRYING TO LOOK MANLY FOR YOUR SON?
I JUST CAN'T HOLD IT IN.
And why I'm so glad my partner turned out to be you.
This kind of thing is exactly why I try not to talk about stuff like this

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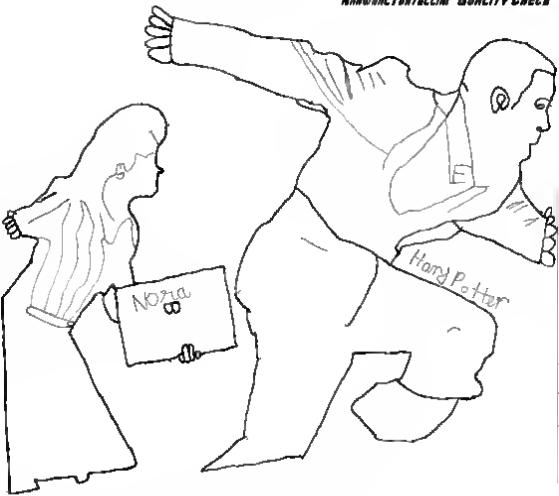

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I AM HONORED TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY AT THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR THIS MAGNIFICENT ART GALLERY
AS I GUIDE YOU INTO THE GALLERY, I FEEL THE LIGHT THAT INSIDES THESE ROOMS AND THE CARE PUT THROUGH BY THE STAFF IN ARRANGING THESE TENDER WORKS OF ART.
I BELIEVE THIS TO BE A PLACE WHERE MANY CAN COME TO APPRECIATE THESE WORKS AND CELEBRATE IT'S OPENING WITH ALL OF YOU
Thank you for attending today's opening ceremony for the National Art Gallery's new annex location
The design for this gallery was managed by Sern Architecture with extensive consideration given to each era's section. Differences with the main gallery can be seen in the
with Prince Rene here today to usher in the grand opening

ARE YOU HAVING FUN MIREILLE?
YEAH, SURE.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE A LITTLE STIFF CONSIDERING IT'S THROWN BY THE SCHOOL BOARD. BUT THE PARTY'S NOT SO BAD!
PLUS IT'S A GREAT EXCUSE TO MEET SOME COOL OLDER GUYS.
Y-YEAH...
ROSALIE!
THAT'S THE ONE I WAS TALKING TO EARLIER. HE'S A YEAR ABOVE US.
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A STEP OUTSIDE FOR A BIT.

SEE YA!
OH, OK.
I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE IT HOME BEFORE I'M OUT NO PROBLEM!
WE DID PLENTY BEFORE THE PARTY STARTED
YOU DON'T NEED TO CHARGE WITH YOUR PARTNER?
...
sigh
Guess I'll head home. It's almost curfew, anyway
Though if I could have come with Rene it'd have been a lot better...
Ha... Didn't really expect this to be that fun, anyway

WHOA!
SORRY! ARE YOU OK?
I'M FINE. JUST A LITTLE JOSTLED.
He's kinda cute.
Oh.
I DIDN'T GET MY DRINK ON YOU, DID I?
He's not in my grade. Older, I guess...
I THINK I'M OK...
RAE! I'M ABOUT TO HEAD BACK...
OH!

SORRY AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, DUMMY. SO YOU'RE GOING HOME?
I'VE GOT SOME STUFF TO DO EARLY TOMORROW
OK
UM... I THINK I'LL SAY GOODBYE THEN. I WAS ABOUT TO GO HOME MYSELF.
BY YOURSELF? BUT IT'S DARK OUT. LET ME WALK YOU TO THE GIRLS' DORM.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT OK, THOUGH. YOU CAN GO ON WITHOUT ME, ALRIGHT ALEXI?
THAT'S EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.
UH... I ACTUALLY LIVE OFF-CAMPUS.
IT'S FINE. I'M USED TO IT.
SURE.

JUST A SEC, OK?
I COULD USE A LITTLE
DO YOU NEED TO CHARGE?
ARE YOU GOING RIGHT TO SLEEP?

ALEX!? YEAH I KNOW, YOU DON'T SEE TWO GUYS TOGETHER A LOT, RIGHT?
IS IT HARD SOMETIMES?
YEAH... BUT I'M USED TO IT BY NOW
SO IF YOU'RE OFF-CAMPUS DOES THAT MEAN YOUR PARTNER'S OLDER AND GRADUATED BEFORE YOU?
AGE DIFFERENCE CAN MAKE FINDING TIME TO CHARGE KINDA TOUGH HUH?
SO THAT GUY WAS YOUR PARTNER?
THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT, AFTER ALL.
WE'VE ALL GOT OUR ONE PERSON WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.
I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO ANY LITTLE INCONVENIENCES

AH, RIGHT HERE IS FINE.
...YEAH.
HUH?
BUT... THIS IS THE NATIONAL PARK...
キィ
YEAH, IT'S RIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
BUT IT'S CLOSED AT NIGHT!
IT'S FINE!
OH, AND I STILL HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF!
I'M MIREILLE! THANKS FOR TAKING ME HOME!
?

ガラ…
Yes?
IT'S MIREILLE. I'M A LITTLE LATE. CAN YOU OPEN THE GATE?
MIREILLE!
HOW CAN YOU GET HOME SO LATE!

I DID SAY I'D BE HOME LATE BEFORE
RENE HAS BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AT A HOSPITAL TOMORROW. IT'S A LONG WAY AWAY AND HE NEEDS TO LEAVE EARLY.
IF YOU MAKE HIM WAIT UP LATE TO CHARGE, HE CAN'T GET TO BED ON TIME.
AFTER ALL THIS TIME TOGETHER I WOULD THINK BY NOW YOU'D UNDERSTAND
As you can see, the reason I can't live in the school dorms...
The reason I can't go to parties with my partner...
Is because
キィ...
THAT'S ENOUGH, ALMA
YOU'VE GOT TO BE UP AT SIX TOMORROW. I DON'T WANT YOU STAYING UP LATE
OF COURSE
I ASKED MIREILLE TO GO TO THE PARTY. I'D BE GLAD MORE THAN ANYTHING. IF SHE ACTUALLY HAD ENOUGH FUN TO STAY LONGER

When everyone else left their parents and went into the nursery,
That's when I was moved to the royal palace to start my life with Rene
SO DID YOU HAVE FUN AT THE PARTY?
IT WAS JUST THE USUAL SCHOOL PARTY. NOTHING SPECIAL
IT WAS OK
YEAH, BUT THE STUFF YOU CALL NOTHING SPECIAL IS STUFF I CAN'T EVEN DO. YOU KNOW THAT
TELL ME ABOUT IT. I LIKE HEARING ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL STUFF

Really, I'm supposed to stay here and get tutored just like Rene.
But I was selfish and wanted to go to school instead
Rene seems lonely here I think, but he didn't argue.
SO WHICH TUTORS DID YOU HAVE TODAY?
ELMER FOR HISTORY AND HUGUES FOR MATH! THEN RENAULT IN SCIENCE TO TOP IT ALL OFF!
HEH, I TAKE IT THERE WAS A PROBLEM?
I DID ALL MY WORK!
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GET SO ANGRY JUST BECAUSE I FORGOT TO TAKE IT WITH ME!
It's become routine for us to report our days to one another like this.
SO YOUR FRIEND ROSALIE
WENT OFF WITH A GUY THAT WASN'T HER PARTNER? IS THAT REALLY OK?
EVERYONE DOES IT SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T GET IN THE WAY OF CHARGING
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT
YOU OFF WITH SOME GUY

I HAD SOMEONE WITH ME SO IT WAS FINE
WHO?
WERE YOU OK ON THE WAY HOME? IT HAD TO HAVE BEEN DARK OUT BY THEN, RIGHT?
...A GUY I MET AT THE PARTY.
Stupid I hadn't planned on mentioning it.
...OH.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE UP EARLY TOMORROW, RIGHT?
WE SHOULD CHARGE SO YOU CAN GET TO BED.

YOU MUST BE TIRED. SORRY.
I THINK IT GOES FOR US BOTH.
SAY, AFTER I'M DONE WITH OFFICIAL STUFF, I'LL PROBAPLY BE FREE FOR THE AFTERNOON.
DO YOU WANT TO GO DO SOMETHING?
—CAN WE?
YEAH
YEAH!
WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO GO ANY-WHERE TO-GETHER FOR A WHILE

YEAH
AND THIS IS THE HOSPITAL'S CAFETERIA
MENU ITEMS ARE PREPARED USING ORGANIC PRODUCE GROWN RIGHT HERE ON THE PREMISES
I'D LOVE TO TRY SOME
THOUGH I ADMIT I'VE HAD AN ISSUE WITH CARROTS SINCE I WAS LITTLE. I STILL HAVE SOME TROUBLE WITH THEM NOW.
IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND ALSO COMING TO VISIT OUR REC ROOM, THE KIDS HAVE BEEN TOLD YOU'LL BE STOPPING BY. THE CHOIR IS PRACTICING RIGHT NOW.
Hahaha...

We were supposed to meet at two, but it's already four.
He sure is late. I guess things are running long
...YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM YESTERDAY.
OH, YOU'RE RAEL'S...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? ARE YOU ALL ALONE?
I'M WAITING FOR SOMEONE. THOUGH IT MIGHT BE A LOST CAUSE.
I HAD SOME WORK TO DO THIS WEEKEND WITH THE PLANTS IN THE GREENHOUSE HERE
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YOU'RE ALEXI, RIGHT?

...YOU DON'T NEED TO GO? IT CLOSES EARLY ON WEEKENDS, DOESN'T IT?
I ALREADY WENT.
...YEAH, BUT HE MIGHT NOT BE COMING.
HE'S A BUSY GUY.
IS IT YOUR PARTNER YOU'RE WAITING FOR?

...AFTER THIS I'M MEETING RAEL AND WE'RE GOING TO FIND SOMETHING TO EAT IN TOWN.
DO YOU WANT TO COME?
WELCOME HOME. WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?
SORRY, ALMA! MIREILLE IS WAITING FOR ME! I'M GOING TO SEE HER NOW!

I'll take the shortcut. Mireille and I used to come this way all the time when we were kids
It should be right on the other side of all this brush
She's still there!
OH
THANKS

OK
HEAD HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK THOUGH. IT CAN BE DANGEROUS OUT HERE
YES, THANK YOU!!
UM...
BUT...
I THINK I'LL WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
ALEX!!
If Rene could come too...
MIREILLE
!!
PLEASE, INVITE ME AGAIN SOMETIME! I—

IT'S NO PROB-LEM.
IT'S A NICE DAY. IT WAS NICE TO JUST BASK IN THE SUN A LITTLE.
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT. BUSINESS RAN A LITTLE LONG.
WHO WAS THAT GUY?
WAS HE THE ONE THAT ESCORTED YOU HOME BEFORE?
HUH?
NO, THAT WAS AN-OTHER
OH?
YOU'VE SURE MADE FRIENDS WITH A LOT OF GUYS. IT'S NICE YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF
...WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?

ALEX! STOPPED TO KEEP ME COMPANY SINCE I'D BEEN WAITING THERE ALONE FOREVER!
OF COURSE NOT! IT'S JUST YOU DON'T SEEM TO LIKE YOUR LIFE HERE WITH US AT ALL!
YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT A RIGHT TO SULK WHEN YOU WERE THE ONE THAT CAME LATE?!
AND THEN YOU ASK THAT BOY TO INVITE YOU SOMEWHERE...
SO WHAT?! I SHOULDN'T EVEN MAKE PLANS WITH YOU IF YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE LATE!
MAYBE THEN I COULD HAVE GONE TO TOWN WITH HIM AND GOTTEN SOMETHING TO EAT!
DO YOU LIKE THAT GUY...?

SAY, YOU KNOW HOW LONG WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER? FIFTEEN YEARS!
AND SOMETIMES THERE'S INFORMATION I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE REPORTING!
YOU'VE NEVER EVEN MENTIONED...!
WHAT IF I DID?
I CAN'T STAND THAT! NOT... NOT KNOWING WHERE YOU'RE GOING...
NOT KNOWING WHO YOU'RE WITH...

LET ME GO!
IS IT SO BAD TO BE AROUND OTHER PEOPLE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!
バタン
YET WE CHARGE EVERY SINGLE DAY TOGETHER, AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE FIRST CLUE!
WHENEVER YOU'RE TIRED OR DEPRESSED OR SOMETHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED TO YOU, I CAN ALWAYS TELL!

My eyes are still red...
I went to school without even charging with Rene...
Alma's going to be pissed when I get home...

MIREILLE?
It bothers me that Rene can't tell.
It'll be a lot of trouble for him when he runs out of power.
We haven't even charged since yesterday morning.
It's getting a little hard for me to hold in, too
OH!
GOOD MORNING!
I-- JUST HAD A LITTLE FIGHT WITH MY PART-- NER.
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

ARE YOU GETTING A LITTLE BUILT UP MAYBE? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
PEOPLE HOLD OFF ON CHARGING WITH THEIR PARTNER AFTER A FIGHT AND END UP COLLAPSING ALL THE TIME SO IT'S BEST NOT TO LET IT GO ON TOO LONG
Because he's the prince
...HE'LL BE ALRIGHT FOR A DAY
ARE YOU A SUPPLIER?
YEAH
?
All important people have a list of "reserves" on hand in case of any unexpected situations
There's no way he'd be allowed to run out of power
YET I KEEP DOING SUCH SELFISH THINGS AND MAKING SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR HIM.
My wavelength is all that sets me apart
I'm just the prince's first choice of battery
THAT'S ALWAYS HOW IT'S BEEN
WHENEVER I'M NOT WORKING OUT, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE THERE TO TAKE MY PLACE

Yet he's the only one for me.
SHALL I FIND SOMEONE OFF THE RESERVE LIST? YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH YOUR SCHEDULE TODAY WITHOUT A FULL CHARGE.
REALLY! WHAT WAS MIREILLE THINKING LEAVING WITHOUT LETTING YOU CHARGE!
THE WAY YOU TWO AND EVERYONE ELSE ARE WITH THEIR PARTNERS. THE WAY I THOUGHT WE WERE.
I WISH SO MUCH I COULD BE IMPORTANT TO HIM.
We're not the same as everyone else.
It's hard to believe I could ever be the one person he needs forever
That one special person
I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME TO TALK THINGS THROUGH WITH SOMEONE VERY IMPORTANT.
ALMA. I'LL MAKE SURE TO BE BACK IN TIME FOR MY DUTIES

MIREILLE!
RENE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? DID YOU COME ALONE?!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR DUTIES ?!
I-IT'S OK. I MANAGED TO GET JUST A LITTLE TIME.
Ha...

Rene...
Where have I heard that name...
Calm
HAVE YOU NOT EVEN CHARGED?
ALEX!!
WHAT?
RENE! THAT'S... HE'S THE P...
!!
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE MY PARTNER.
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? YOU'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO...
Y-YOU IDIOT!
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BE ABLE TO JUST CHARGE WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND GO ON ABOUT MY BUSINESS...
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?! YOU LEFT WITHOUT SAYING A WORD TO ANYONE!
AS IF NOTHING HAS HAPPENED?!

I understood the truth then.
RENE
I CAN'T GET THROUGH THIS WITHOUT YOU NOT EVEN JUST FOR A DAY.
That in these moments, things like class or age or sex don't matter anymore

and the only thing left is a sense of just how precious that other person is.
Ha
HEY, MIREILLE
I KNOW WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER A LONG TIME BUT THERE ARE STILL ALWAYS GOING TO BE THINGS THE OTHER NEEDS TO HEAR TO UNDERSTAND
SO JUST LET ME BE CLEAR ABOUT THIS
THE LAST THING I WANT IS TO IMPEDE ON YOU ANY MORE THAN I ALREADY HAVE TO
SO I WANT YOU TO FEEL FREE TO GO TO SCHOOL, TO GO ON DATES, OR TO LOVE ANYONE YOU CHOOSE
I'M HAPPY JUST KNOWING THAT YOU'RE MY PARTNER. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT. BUT...
YOU'RE MY PARTNER AND THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN MY LIFE

YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE.
AND IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK... I HOPE YOU'LL STAY WITH ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
whistle

WOW! NOT ONLY DID THEY MAKE UP, BUT SHE GOT A REAL CONFESSION OF LOVE!
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD A CONFESSION LIKE THAT BEFORE!
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT
IT'S NO GOOD ASSUMING YOUR PARTNER UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING JUST BECAUSE YOU CHARGE TOGETHER, HUH?
NEVER KNOWING EXACTLY HOW SOMEONE FEELS CAN BE REALLY HARD.
WE'RE ALL STUCK TO EACH OTHER FOR THE LONG HAUL.
WHEN YOU'VE BEEN TOGETHER WITH SOMEONE SINCE YOU WERE A KID, HOW OFTEN DO YOU REALLY STOP TO CONFIRM FEELING LIKE LOVE IN SO MANY WORDS?

Then let the spring breeze carry my words.
If embarrassment overcomes me,
You're the only one that needs to know
For though this season floods with light, it is all the more brilliant as I stand next to you.
「真空融接 春」■END■

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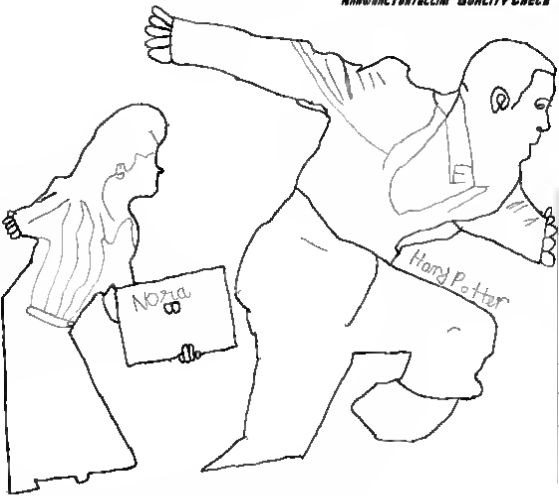

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